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**HERZFELDER ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR CAPE COMMUNITIES**

**CHATHAM** - Secretary of Environmental Affairs Ellen Roy Herzfelder today announced \$126,312 in grants for projects on Cape Cod under the state's Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Grant Program [\$53,312] and the Wetlands Restoration Program [\$73,000].

"Each of these projects deals with innovative approaches in preventing and assessing nonpoint source pollution and implementing wetlands restoration projects," Secretary Herzfelder said. "We would hope, and even encourage, the beneficiaries of these grants to leverage these contributions with others—including federal and private partners."



Combating NPS pollutants - the number one problem facing coastal waters - include: efforts to curtail excess fertilizers, oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff; eliminating sediment from improperly managed construction sites; reducing salt from irrigation practices; and, targeting bacteria and nutrient loads from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems.

Pollution from NPS sources such as these can directly impact water quality when rainfall or snowmelt move over and through the ground. Runoff then picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, depositing them into coastal waters, lakes, rivers, wetlands, and underground sources of drinking water.

Under a separate program, the Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP) supports voluntary, pro-active restoration of degraded or former wetlands. To fulfill its mission, the WRP works with a broad network of partners, pursuing restoration activities in several core program areas:

restoration planning, project implementation and construction, education and outreach, and monitoring.

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"Our private partners, including citizen groups, are critical to restoring our coastal wetlands and reducing nonpoint source pollution," said CZM Director Susan Snow-Cotter. "The Buzzards Bay Action Committee, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, and the Thorton Burgess Society have continually worked to protect water quality, coastal habitats, and marine resources."

State Representative, Shirley Gomes (Orleans), whose district includes Chatham, added, "Grants which assist our communities in assessing and mitigating the negative impacts [that are] polluting our bays and estuaries are critical to the well being of our environment. A healthy coastline bodes well for the future of the Cape Cod we know, love, and seek to protect."

The following Cape Cod projects were announced today:

#### **Coastal NPS**

- The Town of Chatham was awarded a \$28,800 grant to complete an assessment project to investigate the source of the bacteria in the Cockle Cove Creek Watershed and aid in identifying possible management strategies to mitigate the bacteria problem. The assessment will include a detailed sanitary survey and sampling program. The Town will review watershed information for the project area, identify and evaluate septic system locations and impervious surfaces, conduct surface water and groundwater sampling for enterococci bacteria presence, and recommend management approaches based on assessment findings.
- The Town of Oak Bluffs was awarded \$5,561 to analyze nitrogen isotope ratios in shellfish in Martha's Vineyard coastal ponds. Dissolved nitrogen from different sources, such as septic wastewater from residential development or runoff from fertilizer, will have different isotope ratios that ultimately are reflected in the plants and animals in an ecosystem. The Town anticipates that the information developed from this study will demonstrate the link between nitrogen loading in the watershed and its appearance in important coastal pond resources such as shellfish and eelgrass, and also help to discern the source of nitrogen loading.
- The Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC) was awarded \$18,951 to develop detailed stormwater drainage network maps and GIS data sets for several areas in the Buzzards Bay watershed, in partnership with the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School. Through this effort, BBAC will complete the effort begun by the Buzzards Bay Project (BBP), to map known stormwater discharges and catch basins throughout seven Buzzards Bay communities, including previously unmapped areas of Bourne, Wareham, and Marion.

*(more)*

### **Wetlands Restoration Program Grants**

- The Association to Preserve Cape Cod received a \$10,000 grant to continue its exemplary work in recruiting and training volunteers to use CZM-established protocols to monitor the restoration progress at six priority project sites on Cape Cod (Yarmouth, Barnstable, Brewster, Sandwich, Dennis, and Bourne).
- The Thornton Burgess Society received a \$23,000 grant to assist in the implementation of the East Sandwich Game Farm Salt Marsh Restoration Project. Funds will be used to support the demolition of an earthen dam and concrete impoundment, regrade the side slopes, and install a pedestrian span bridge
- The Town of Barnstable received a \$20,000 grant to aid in the removal of an undersized culvert under Route 6A and its replacement with a properly sized culvert that will restore normal tidal flow to the Bridge Creek Salt Marsh.
- The Town of Orleans received a \$20,000 grant to purchase a new culvert to replace an improperly sized and failing culvert under Skaket Beach Road, restoring about 8 acres of degraded salt marsh.

In total, statewide, there will be 10 Coastal NPS Grants awarded during this year's round totaling approximately \$215,000 and 7 WRP Grants awarded totaling \$100,000.

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